

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05157 111714Z

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-10 OIC-04 /237 W
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R 111528Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8627

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 5157

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, BE

SUBJECT: GATT: BELGIAN POSITION AT TOKYO MTN MEETING

REF.: BRUSSELS 4715

1. AT REGULAR FRIDAY MORNING MINTERIAL PRESS INTERVIEW, BELGIAN STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN TRADE KEMPINAIRE REPLIED TO QUESTION ON UPCOMING TOKYO CONFERENCE BY OUTLINING BASIC POINTS IN GOB POSITION. KEMPINAIRE WILL BE SENIOR GOB OFFICIAL PARTICIPATING.

2. TARIFFS: GOB WILL SUPPORT MOVEMENT TO SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER TARIFFS WITH EMPHASIS ON CUTTING "EXTREMELY" HIGH TARIFFS "WHICH CONSTITUTE THE PRINCIPAL BARRIER TO FOREIGN TRADE". "AVERAGE TARIFFS ARE LESS IMPORTANT. GOB WILL SUPPORT, THEREFORE, "HARMONIZATION" IN SENSE OF LEVELING OFF EXTREME TARIFFS IN CONTEXT OF GENERAL LOWERING OF ALL TARIFF LEVELS.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05157 111714Z

3. NON-TARIFF BARRIERS: GOB WILL SUPPORT NEGOTIATIONS ON NTB'S FOR PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING A NUMBER OF NTB'S TO BE ELIMINATED AS FIRST STEP IN DEALING WITH NTB PROBLEM.

4. AGRICULTURE: GOB MAINTAINS THAT "GENERAL PRINCIPLES" OF CAP ARE NOT TO BE QUESTIONED. HOWEVER, IT SUPPORTS PROPOSAL THAT A NUMBER OF LONG TERM AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE CONCLUDED WITH "THIRD WORLD" COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO STABILIZE WORLD MARKETS IN CERTAIN PRODUCTS, E.G. CEREALS, RICE, MILK PRODUCTS.

5. PARTICIPATION OF LDC'S: GOB SUPPORTS PARTICIPATION OF ALL COUNTRIES, WHETHER OR NOT MEMBERS OF GATT, IN FUTURE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS GOB ALSO BELIEVES LDC'S SHOULD OBTAIN NEW TRADE ADVANTAGES ON NON- RECIPROCAL BASIS, I.E. NO REVERSE PREFERENCES.

6. RE REFTTEL, BELGIAN DELEGATION CHANGED AS FOLLOWS: DELETE A.L. DE VOGELAERE, CHEF DE CABINET AND REPLACE BY AMBASSADOR A. COESSENS, CABINET ADVISOR.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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